

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 SS-15 L-02 NSC-05

EURE-00 /074 W

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P 041714Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8409

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: CHEESE AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

REF: A) STATE 34644

B) EC BRUSSELS 1366

1. ON MARCH 3 LOERKE, THE EC COMMISSION'S US DESK OFFICER, TOGETHER WITH OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THE DIRECTORATES GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND AGRICULTURE, DISCUSSED WITH US THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSE TO PARA 3 OF REF A. THE POINTS THEY MADE WERE:

(A) THE COMMISSION HAS NO DESIRE TO LET CHEDDAR BE EXPORTED AS MONTEREY.

(B) IT IS DOUBTED THAT THIS WOULD BE COMMERCIALLLY PROFITABLE.

(C) CHEDDAR IS A SEPARATE CATEGORY FOR THE EC, AS FOR THE US.

(D) MONTEREY IS A SUBCATEGORY WITHIN A BROAD CATEGORY OF CHEESES WHICH HAVE A MINIMUM FAT CONTENT OF 39 PERCENT. IT IS DESCRIBED ONLY BY NAME, WHICH CARRIES WITH IT ACCEPTED QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS. AS A MATTER OF COMMERCIAL PRACTICE, MONTEREY HAS A FAT CONTENT IN DRY MATTER OF 50 PERCENT,
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AND A MOISTURE OCONTENT OF 59 PERCENT.

(E) IF THE US DETERMINES THAT CHEESE WHICH BY US STANDARDS IS CHEDDAR IS BEING SHIPPED FROM THE EC UNDER OTHER NAMES, THE COMMISSION WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED.

2. MORE GENERALLY, LOERKE NOTED THAT THE US MONITORING SYSTEM MEANT THAT THE USG WOULD KNOW BEFORE THE COMMISSION WHAT QUALITIES OF EC CHEESES WERE ENTERING THE US. THE USG WOULD ALSO BE MORE UP TO DATE ON PRICES. HE ASKED THAT THE USG PROMPTLY TRANSMIT SUCH INFORMATION, WHICH WOULD HELP THE COMMISSION TO EVALUATE MARKET CONDITIONS AND PERMIT IT TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO ADAPT TO DISRUPTIVE SITUATIONS AS THEY ARISE.

3. LOERKE SAID THE COMMISSION WAS NOT YET READY TO COMMENT ON PARA 5 OF REFTTEL (REGARDING DOWNGRADING OF CHEESE) BUT WOULD DO SO ON FRIDAY, MARCH 7. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHEESE, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU01863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750075-0903
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750386/aaaacyyw.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 34644
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHEESE AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES
TAGS: ETRD, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006